Royal Hospital for Sick Children,
GLASGOW.

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR REBUILDING FUND.

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THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, GLASGOW, was opened in 1882. The objects of the Institution are :—

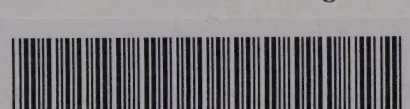
1. The Medical and Surgical Treatment of Poor Children suffering from non-infectious diseases.
2. The advancement and diffusion of Medical Science with reference to Children's diseases, and
3. The Training of Nurses for Sick Children.

How far the Hospital accomplishes these objects may be gathered from the fact that *every year* over 1000 children are treated in the wards and over 11,000

in the out-patient department or dispensary, and since the opening 15,000 children have been treated in the wards and 128,000, involving 470,000 separate attendances, at the out-patient department. *All must be under twelve years of age, and many are only a few months old.* Last year 465 of the cases treated in the Hospital and 6297 of the cases treated in the out-patient department were under three years of age.

The work of the Institution, which is the only Children's Hospital in the West of Scotland, has far out-grown the anticipation of the founders, and for some years past it has become increasingly apparent to the Directors that the existing accommodation is unsatisfactory and wholly inadequate. Originally, the Hospital contained three wards, but the demands for admission increased so rapidly that in 1887 a fourth ward was added by the generosity of Mr. Thomas Carlile, bringing up the total number of cots to 74. There has not been any increase in the Hospital accommodation since. In 1888 the out-patient department or dispensary was built on an excellent site close to Cambridge Street, about a quarter of a mile from the Hospital, and in 1903, by the generosity of a lady, a branch of the Hospital, containing two wards of twelve beds each, was opened in the country near Drumchapel, Dumbartonshire.

During the twenty-four years of the Hospital's existence the population in and around Glasgow has increased enormously, towns now standing where formerly there were green fields. It must be obvious to all that the needs of the many children—and particularly the very young children—out of such a population who are poor and suffering and require the medical and surgical skill for which they are unable to pay, cannot possibly be met by a Hospital containing 74 beds. In addition to the growth of the community the great progress made in medical science, and particularly in surgery, has caused a demand everywhere for increased Hospital accommodation, and this is perhaps particularly true of accommodation for the special treatment of children of the tenderest age. When the Hospital was started, the intention was that only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children between two and twelve years of age should be admitted. Now it is not only possible, but in many instances advisable, to operate on a child requiring surgical treatment long before it reaches two. Thereby not only is life saved and much suffering spared, but also in most cases the child is enabled to grow up a strong man or woman instead of a helpless or deformed cripple. Hence the striking fact that over one-fourth of the children now treated at the Hospital are under two years of age.

The work at the dispensary has *each year* increased by, on an average, over 600 cases, whereas for some years past the numbers treated in the wards of the Hospital have been nearly stationary, and that simply because the Hospital accommodation is taxed to its utmost and is quite incapable of coping with the demands made upon it. Every year many children are turned away from the doors. They come from the dispensary recommended for Hospital treatment by the staff there; they come from various parts of Glasgow, from neighbouring towns, and from the country, only to be told that there is no room or that they can only hope to gain admission by waiting several weeks. For many this period of waiting is out of the question and application has to be made elsewhere. Some are admitted to the adult hospitals, but there are many who cannot be and are not. As an indication of the demand for Hospital treatment for children under 12 years of age, it may be mentioned that the number of such cases treated annually in the Adult Hospitals in Glasgow has within the last fourteen years increased over 100 per cent.

In considering the question of extension, the Directors naturally looked to the present site, but every inch of space is already taken up; and even if additional ground could be obtained, the Directors, after taking the best advice on the subject, have without hesitation come to the conclusion that it would be a mistake to spend money on alterations or extensions there. The Hospital, which lies on the north side of Garnethill, is now closely surrounded with high buildings. The air space is thus much restricted, and only a minimum of sunshine can be obtained. Further, the adjoining property to the west is used as a

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Veterinary College, where a considerable number of sick animals are kept. Then again, in any scheme for extension on the present site, the internal arrangements of the existing Hospital would require complete alteration, involving practically the reconstruction of the existing building.

The Directors have thus been forced to the conclusion that what is required is a larger Children's Hospital on a new site in Glasgow, and, in addition, a material extension of the Branch in the country at Drumchapel. To be at all adequate, the new Hospital will require to contain from 200 to 250 cots, and to erect such a building on a suitable site and make the requisite extension at Drumchapel will cost about £100,000.

This decision has not been arrived at without the fullest consideration and without taking the best advice procurable. The attention of the subscribers has been called to the position of matters in the Annual Reports for the last four years, and the speeches at the respective annual meetings clearly indicate the views of two successive Lord Provosts of Glasgow and of several leading physicians and surgeons who have an intimate knowledge of the subject. In the words of Dr. T. Kennedy Dalziel, at the annual meeting in 1906, the requisites of a new Children's Hospital in Glasgow are:—(Firstly) The site must be one where the maximum of sunshine and fresh air will be obtained. (Secondly) There must be sufficient accommodation to receive, if not all, then a great proportion, of the cases requiring hospital treatment sent from the dispensary and from the numerous other sources in Glasgow and the West of Scotland, whence applications for admission come. (Thirdly) There must be sufficient accommodation for a nursing staff to enable a large number of very young children to be treated, and this accommodation must be separate from the main building containing the patients, so that the nurses and servants will not live practically in the atmosphere of the wards day and night as at present. (Fourthly) It must be within easy reach of the University, so that it may become a teaching centre, and thus fulfil one of the most important functions of any public hospital.

The question of whether the new Children's Hospital should be in Glasgow or in the country has been most carefully considered. There is no doubt that the country air has a most beneficial effect upon the children, and the Directors accordingly desire to materially extend the Branch at Drumchapel, but there are many difficulties in having the main hospital in the country. For the sake of patients, doctors, and students, it is important that the main hospital should be at hand, and for this reason it has been decided, after full consideration, not to depart from the general example of other large cities, and to build the new hospital in Glasgow, but on a site which will, as nearly as may be, secure to the children many of the advantages of a site in the country.

The sum required to accomplish the desired objects is a large one, but if every one who has the lives and the health and the happiness of the children of the West of Scotland at heart will give generously, it will not be long before there is in Glasgow a hospital to which every poor child under twelve years throughout that large community may look for the highest medical and surgical skill in the hour of its sickness and need. Other cities, both at home and abroad, have felt the necessity for such an institution, and in many instances have supplied that need in a way that puts to shame the accommodation in Glasgow, having regard to the very large industrial population residing in and around the city. The following instances may be cited :—

Edinburgh Children's Hospital contains	-	-	120 Cots.
Aberdeen do. do.	-	-	85 „
Manchester do. do.	-	-	168 „
Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, one out of six children's hospitals there, contains	-	-	186 „
Toronto, Canada, Children's Hospital contains	-	-	200 „
New York, U.S.A., has four children's hospitals. The largest contains	-	-	500 „

Such is the appeal now made on behalf of many sick poor children in Glasgow and the West of Scotland. Subscriptions, or intimations of sub-

scriptions, may be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, 91 West Regent Street, Glasgow, or to the Bank of Scotland, St. Vincent Place, Glasgow.

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James Bell

Hector C. Cameron

For the Directors

Rob. Hislops Chairman

Alan R. Clapperton Hon Treas

Rob. Wardrop, Hon. Secy.

The Sick Poor Children of Glasgow and the West of Scotland appeal to you. The Hospital is full, and there are always over 100 little ones knocking at the door for admission. They plead for a chance of a healthy, strong, useful life. Will you help them to get it? Please fill in your answer below.

Glasgow, ... *1907.*

Dear Sir,

In response to the Appeal for Funds to build a new Children's Hospital and to extend the Country Branch, I have pleasure in hereby subscribing the sum of £..... and shall pay the same in.....annual instalments.

Name,.....

Address,.....

To

Alan E. Clapperton, Esq.,
Honorary Treasurer,
91 West Regent Street,
Glasgow.

The first Subscription List will be published in the "Glasgow Herald" on Monday, 15th April. Please return this Sheet before then.

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